



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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Dear Colleagues,

And we're off! Once again, the University of Louisville campus is bustling with activity as the new academic year begins. Preliminary numbers indicate that we are trending in the right direction, with increases in incoming undergraduate enrollment (3,125) and overall enrollment (22,231). It's no wonder that this year's residence hall occupancy rate is 98% with nearly 1,900 first-year students settling themselves in their new college homes and more than 3,900 housing assignments.

UofL Has much to celebrate. The Center for World University Rankings placed UofL in the top 500 universities in the world. Our Brandeis School of Law Student Bar Association earned the 2023-24 Student Bar Association Award from the American Bar Association, and several UofL student-athletes punched their ticket to the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. For the third consecutive year, UofL earned the Military Friendly® "Gold" designation.

As a first-generation student myself, I am especially pleased that UofL was acknowledged as a national leader in first-generation student support by the FirstGen Forward Network Champions.

So much of the excellent work we do at UofL positively impacts our community. Parts of our city breathe easier thanks to groundbreaking research on tree canopies conducted by the UofL Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute. We are happy to partner with UofL Health, Louisville Medical & Education District, Louisville Mayor Graig Greenberg's office, Louisville Metro Public Works, Jefferson Community and Technical College and Norton Healthcare, in a major urban park initiative that will create much-needed green spaces and pedestrian-friendly areas in the heart of downtown.

Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes for a safe, productive and fulfilling academic year to my CPE colleagues.

Kim Schatzel, PhD

President, University of Louisville



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION POWERHOUSE



UofL Green Heart Project: residents' inflammation lower after trees added to neighborhoods

The UofL Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute announced the first clinical results of the landmark Green Heart Louisville Project. The institute launched the first-of-its-kind project in 2018 in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, Washington University in St. Louis, Hyphae Design Laboratory and others to study whether and how living among more densely greened surroundings contributes to better heart health.

Researchers planted more than 8,000 large trees and shrubs in designated neighborhoods within the project area. After the plantings, researchers found that those living in the greened area had 13-20% lower levels of high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP) than those living in the areas that did not receive any new trees or shrubs.

Higher levels of hsCRP are strongly associated with a risk of cardiovascular disease and are an even stronger indicator of heart attack than cholesterol levels. Higher CRP levels also indicate a higher risk of diabetes and certain cancers.

Envirome Institute Director Aruni Bhatnagar and UofL President Kim Schatzel, along with several strategic and community partners, shared the results at a press conference, which took place Aug. 27 in Wyandotte Park. The NBC Today Show and the Louisville Courier-Journal were among the several local and national media outlets that covered the event.

PREMIER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

UofL ranks among world's top 500 universities

According to the most recent results of the Center for World University Rankings, the University of Louisville landed within the top 500 universities in the world, placing 489th out of 2,000 ranked.

These results were heavily endorsed by the UofL graduate employability rating and research rankings, which secured the placement at the top 2.4% out of 20,966 higher education institutions that were evaluated.

This significant improvement from the 2023 ranking has placed UofL above renowned universities, such as Boston College and Clemson University.





UofL's campus comes alive as thousands move in for the 2024 fall semester

UofL is breaking records this move-in season, expecting an occupancy rate of 98% with nearly 1,900 first-year students settling themselves in their new college homes and more than 3,900 housing assignments.

Multiple Welcome Week activities took place prior to the beginning of classes, including: Cardinal Kickoff Picnic with President Kim Schatzel and other UofL leaders; yard games and Bingo Like Never B-4; UofL night at Kentucky Kingdom; sunrise yoga; nachos at Ekstrom Library; After Hours event at the Speed Art Museum; and a Student Government Association welcome lunch.



Going for Gold: UofL researcher explores why many Olympians are college athletes

An outstanding group of University of Louisville athletes took over the red carpet at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, where they represented their countries with pride and commitment.

As indicated by UofL college athletics researcher, Meg Hancock, a significant number of Olympic athletes from higher education institutions thrive at the games as a consequence of the first-class resources

available for student-athletes at American colleges and universities. These resources allow them to develop their minds and games to the highest levels.

UofL provides its student-athletes with a wide variety of resources including top-tier coaches, trainers and health care specialists via UofL Health - the university's official care provider. Hancock believes that these distinctive features universities offer focus on mental health and performance by providing at least 10 mental health professionals for student-athletes.



UofL Brandeis School of Law wins American Bar Association award

UofL's Brandeis School of Law Student Bar Association has received the 2023-24 Student Bar Association (SBA) Award from the American Bar Association (ABA).

The university's SBA is being recognized for its efforts to create a better environment for law students and a more positive image of the legal profession.

Elma Jasarevic, former president of the SBA, attributes this achievement to the increase in student engagement over the past year, as well as better connecting the student body with the administration and making an impact within the legal and nonlegal community.

UofL recognized as national leader in first-generation student support

UofL has been recognized as a national leader in first-generation student support: it has earned a spot in the inaugural class of FirstGen Forward Network Champions.

Since 2021, UofL has been a part of the FirstGen Forward network with 429 other higher education institutions - representing 49 states and the District of Columbia.



UofL earns "Gold" designation for Military Friendly university

The University of Louisville earned the Military Friendly® "Gold" designation for 2024-2025. This is the third consecutive year UofL has earned that level, and UofL is one of only 12 R-1 to earn the designation. The university also earned Military Spouse Friendly® designation. In May 2024, UofL celebrated the opening of its renovated Center for Military Connected Students. The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs is using the center as a model for other state institutions.